News-item, "One among every 100 Indians is a nut"

771. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "One among every 100 Indians is a nut", which appeared in the Deccan Chronicle, dated the 8th October, 2001;

(b) if so, whether any authentic study has been carried out to confirm the news-report, as mentioned above;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken to address the problem highlighted in the above mentioned news-item?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The number of persons with mental illness is increasing due to changes in demographics such as increase in population and over all increase in the rate of depression world wide. Epidemiological studies have revealed that 1 to 2% of the population have major mental disorders and 5 to 10% suffer from minor mental disorders.

(d) The Government has already initiated a pilot programme for providing care for persons with mental disorders in selected districts in the country. The District Mental Health Programme is currently being implemented in 25 districts covering 20 States and Union Territories. Its aim is to identify persons suffering from various mental disorders and epilepsy and manage them at the primary health care centre and district level, by trained doctors and with the active support of the families and the community in which the patient lives.

Condition of mortuary in AIIMS

772. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the mortuary in the AIIMS is in a very bad condition and the deep freezer was out of order for a long time;

(b) if so, since when the deep freezer was not working and the reasons for not repairing/replacing the same; and